

Reply to the Queen's Letter—General Assembly 2022

May it please Your Majesty

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects convened in General Assembly, have received with pleasure Your Majesty's gracious letter to us.

We greatly value Your Majesty's continuing pledge to maintain the historic rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. In this year when we mark the 70th anniversary of your accession we give thanks for the example of Christian duty and service which your Majesty has given to the nation.

The appointment of the Rt Hon Lord Hodge as Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to our General Assembly has been wholeheartedly welcomed. His Grace brings with him a deep knowledge of the Church of Scotland and indeed the General Assembly, so he is well equipped to fulfil the duties to which you have called him.

As you have acknowledged, in these last two years the COVID-19 pandemic has done much harm in our communities. We appreciate your Majesty's recognition of how people of faith have responded to the unprecedented challenges of recent times. As we have sought together to be good neighbours to people in need we have found in each other friendship and a sense of common cause. It is as friends and partners that we, as faith communities, have been able to develop new relationships with those in government and council who have had to make so many difficult decisions on our behalf.

We are pleased to receive your Majesty's commendation for the Church's engagement with COP26 and our response to the climate emergency which was highlighted in that gathering. We commit ourselves anew to being good stewards of this planet.

We appreciate your Majesty's understanding of the challenges which the Church of Scotland must face in prioritising the use of our limited sources in our continued commitment to be a national church. There are many difficult choices to be made as we plan our participation in Christ's mission yet we remain hopeful that, with God's guidance, we will find ways to renew the life of our Church.

We share your Majesty's concern for the people of Ukraine and we are grateful for your recognition of the Church's work in supporting both refugees and those who remain in that troubled land. We continue to pray with your Majesty for an end to war and a lasting peace.

Finally, we commend Your Majesty to the unfailing grace and protection of Almighty God, and we pray that God will bestow favour upon Your Majesty, as you continue your long reign over us.

Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal servants.

THE MINISTERS, ELDERS AND DEACONS OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CONVENED IN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Signed in our name, in our presence and at our appointment by the Right Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the General Assembly on this 25th day of May 2022.